

Dr Roz Savage
MBE MP
Member of
Parliament for South
Cotswolds



Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing further to my previous correspondence from Monday 28th September about the incident near RAF Fairford to request an urgent meeting, and to seek clarity about the steps the Government will now take to reassure and protect the communities living alongside the base.

The people of Whelford and the surrounding area experienced a frightening and disruptive evacuation. I want to put on record my appreciation for the excellent response from Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire Constabulary, Cirencester Leisure Centre and the Local Resilience Forum, as well as the other emergency services and agencies involved. My team spoke with evacuated residents at the Leisure Centre, and it was clear that a considerable effort had been made at very short notice to keep people safe, supported and informed in extremely difficult circumstances.

In the days since, however, many residents have been trying to understand what happened through changing headlines, international news coverage and statements which have not always appeared consistent. Whatever the eventual findings of the investigation, I believe there are important lessons to be learned about how residents are kept informed during an incident of this kind.

I fully appreciate that this remains a live investigation and that there are matters which cannot responsibly be made public. However, where information is incomplete, speculation and rumour can quickly fill the vacuum. Counter Terrorism Policing has confirmed that no improvised explosive devices were found in the vehicles, despite earlier reports suggesting explosives had been discovered. Residents need to know what information they can rely upon, what remains unconfirmed, and where they should turn for authoritative updates.

I would therefore welcome a meeting with you, or the relevant minister, together with appropriate policing and defence representatives, both to convey the questions residents have put to me and to consider what lessons should be learned from the handling of this incident.

In particular, I would like to discuss how communications between the Government, police, RAF Fairford, local authorities and residents could be strengthened; whether a single trusted source of information should be established for any future incident; and how inaccurate information and speculation can be corrected quickly before they cause unnecessary alarm.

More fundamentally, residents need reassurance about their safety in the months and years ahead. When the then Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, authorised the use of RAF Fairford by the United States for specific and limited defensive operations against Iran, I raised directly with him the potential implications for people living around the base. He assured me that their safety was a “first-



order priority". In light of recent events, I believe residents are entitled to understand how the risks associated with the operational use of RAF Fairford are now being assessed and what additional measures, if any, are being taken to protect neighbouring communities.

I would also be grateful for clarity about the status of the permission granted by Sir Keir for US operations from RAF Fairford. Does that permission remain in force under your premiership, and, if so, is it being reviewed in light of the changed security situation and this incident? I recognise that decisions about the use of UK bases necessarily involve national security considerations, but those decisions also have consequences for the communities who live immediately alongside them.

My priority is not only to establish what happened last weekend, but to ensure that we learn from it: that residents know where to find information they can trust, that communication is swift and coordinated, and, above all, that people living around RAF Fairford can have confidence that their safety is being properly considered in decisions about the future use of the base.

I would be grateful for an early meeting to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roz Savage".

Dr Roz Savage MBE
Member of Parliament for South Cotswolds